

the Brethren being in existence, and yet they so very closely resemble the Brethren in their faith and practice. Does not this prove the doctrine of the Brethren to be the true Bible doctrine? Had they been selfish and biased, the result of their Bible investigation would no doubt have been quite different. I expect to meet with them again, and I may report again later on.

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SALVATION.

J. A. RIDENOUR.

"What shall I do to be saved?" Acts 16:30.

The above is an important question, and is answered differently by different persons, according to their religious faith or skepticism in the word of God. That there is something for man to do in order to gain his salvation is easily determined by any one who believes the Scriptures.

But when it comes to settling the question as to *what* we must do to be saved, is where modern skepticism manifests itself. If the convicted and inquiring asks to-day, what he must do to be saved, he is directed to kneel at the altar and pray, believing that the Lord will then and there pardon and save him. There is no Bible authority for this procedure.

Peter, on the day of Pentecost, having just been endowed with the power of the Holy Ghost, said to the three thousand inquiring penitents: "Repent and be baptized, every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the *remission of sins* and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Again, when Paul was convinced that he was a sinner before God, he inquired what he should do to be saved, and Jesus told him to go to Damascus and there it should be told him what he must do. He went to Damascus and the Lord sent Ananias to tell Paul what to do. Ananias came in unto Paul and said: "Brother Saul, why tarriest thou? Arise and be baptized and *wash away thy sins*, calling upon the name of the Lord. And he arose and was baptized."

What was necessary for man's pardon and salvation eighteen hundred years ago, is necessary now, unless it can be shown that the Lord has changed the conditions and this certainly can not be done. Jesus and Peter are good authority upon this subject, and all ministers should lay aside their skepticism and follow their example and teaching.

There seems to be a growing tendency to ignore, both the conditions of pardon and the evidences of salvation and Christian fellowship, as by the word taught, and substitute for them a kind of *feeling* of inward consciousness that all is well,

and this too to the fatal neglect of Bible evidence. This is lamentable.

Perhaps there never was any one who enjoyed a clearer assurance that he was acceptably serving God than Paul did, while he was persecuting the church, but he was none the less mistaken on that account. He thought because of his sincerity and inward consciousness that he was all right. He doubtless thought that the Spirit bore witness with his spirit that he was a child of God, but he was wonderfully deceived.

Truly those who are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God. But the Spirit always leads into the acceptance and observance of all the truth. It never teaches *contrary* to the truth nor *independent* of it. We must prove the Spirit to see whether it be of God or not. A spirit that sanctions the rejection of any part of God's word of truth, however insignificant it may appear to human reason, is not the Spirit of God, but a false and delusive spirit, and if possible, will deceive the very elect of God. Some claim that faith is the only necessary condition of pardon. But will faith save us? Faith without works is dead. Paul says, "Tho I have all faith, so I could remove mountains, and have not love, it profiteth me nothing." Jesus says, "If ye love me keep my commandments. Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. If any man say, I know the Lord, and keep not his commandments, he is a liar and the truth is not in him. Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. He that hath my commandments and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one for another. We know that we have passed from death into life, because we love the brethren.

See that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently, being begotten again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever. And hereby do we *know* that we know him, if we keep his commandments; for whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected.

It is said by some, that Christian character is the only test of Christian fellowship. This perhaps is correct, but Christian character, with the element of Christian obedience left out, is very defective indeed.

He that knoweth to do right, and doeth it not, to him it is sin. Sin is the transgression of the law of Christ, under which

we live. Christ is the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him. Prove all things and hold fast to that which is good.

Home Circle.

OUR CHRIST.

It is not law which binds
Our heart to Christ;
It is no dream of fear
Which hath sufficed
To bring us close to Him.
It was not law we saw
Nor any dread
Of consequence
Which led
Our eyes to follow Him.
It is not fear He asks,
Though His the power
To rule, but this, that closer,
Hour by hour
We press to Him because
We beauty find in Him
None else possess,
More subtle love
Than time's rapt tenderness.
It is because we see
Divinity
And love so blent in Christ's
Sweet majesty
That we adoring stand,
Transfused by life from Him,
That baser sight
Lacks lustre in our eyes,
And we delight
To bend to His command.
—Geo. Klinge, in *New York Observer*.

"A LITTLE CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM."

SELECTED BY M. M.

"Teddy, is you sleeping?" "No, Bessie, is you?" "I is a thinking Bessie," said Teddie sitting up in bed. "Thinking about the new church we are going to have. I wish we could help the good cause along. The preacher-man said we should, but we have nothing to give, we are so little."

"Mamma says, 'Lord will provide,' put in Bessie in a sleep tone. With this promise on their minds both were soon lost in slumber-land.

When mamma came in an hour later—she looked at the two pretty doves at rest and kissing them, said to papa, "the children must be having pleasant dreams they look so bright and happy."

"Well they may wife, they have no cares, nor heart-ache—no not one," answered Mr. Wells with a deep sigh. "Now what is wrong," asked the little wife stepping to her husband's side. "Won't you tell me about this trouble which seems to worry you?"

"Its a great wrong, a keen disappointment," exclaimed Mr. Wells. "To-night the church-building committee decided that we build no new church. The reason